

## THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Tuesday, March 16, 1915.

New York taxicab drivers have adopted the custom of wearing tails. This makes the hood seem more realistic.

England's list of contraband is now so long that it is easier to enumerate the things that are not prohibited than the things that are.

Spring is near at hand and many of the alloys in the city are so badly choked with cinders that it takes careful driving to get a wagon through them. Time to plan the cleanup.

From the highway in which legal complications continue to open in the Shaw case it is evident that there is a good sized wad of the paternal wealth still in the family strong box.

The value of gold produced in the United States from 1792 to January 1, 1914, is estimated by the United States geological survey at \$2,549,739,400; the value of silver at \$1,709,517,400.

The report that Germany is considering lifting off its supply of wine to save the food the animals would otherwise eat looks like another hint of future prosperity for the American farmer.

With the American surplus of wheat sold out and with barely enough left for seed and to feed the nation (if another crop is harvested the American farmer does not care how long Constantinople falls.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley may be able, without serious reflection being cast upon motives, to advise women to make the low-necked and short-skirted styles permanent, but he is one of the few men who can do so.

Cash rewards said to have been offered for certain facts in destruction of life and property by men fighting in the European war make the camp hunting habits of the American Indians seem by comparison an innocent crime.

Over in Bent county the Farm Improvement League is showing the farmers how to effectively spray fruit trees and how to get uniform results in the use of the limonator. Where, O where, is the movement for a Rock Island county farm league?

A minister advised the wife of Boston to walk the streets undressed so as to call attention to their needs. Must be a great deal warmer in Boston than it is in Rock Island. Any one giving such advice as that here at this time of the year would be likely to be mobbed.

Manufacturers say that few workmen object to employment in the manufacture of dynamite and other war materials for Europe. When there is a living to earn Americans are able to overcome their humanitarian scruples, especially if they know that the implements of destruction they are making will never be used against themselves.

## CHEMISTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION.

A knowledge of chemistry is useful in protecting one against losses from fire, as the state fire marshal's bulletin points out.

A man who had a bad cough stopped at a drug store and bought some tablets of chlorate of potash for soothing the irritation in his throat. These were given to him in a small paper package, which he placed in his outside overcoat pocket, where it happened that there were also a box of safety matches.

In stepping into his automobile, after making the purchase he brushed against the side of the car door, and the chlorate tablets were rubbed against the coating on the match box. The result was that an intense fire was started in his overcoat pocket, and before his clothing could be removed he was badly burned.

The phosphorus used in connection with safety matches is of the red variety, and occurs upon the box itself, instead of on the heads of the matches as in the old-fashioned friction match that can be lighted anywhere. One essential constituent of the head of the safety match is chlorate of potash, the chlorate possessing the property of flaming up strongly when rubbed against the coating on the box. Chlorate of potash is rich in oxygen, and it is dangerous to transport or to store, unless proper precautions are taken. To avoid any trouble of this kind, care should always be taken to

avoid putting chlorate tablets and match boxes in the same pocket. The tablets are often put up in little flat bottles with screw tops, and it is best to buy them in this form.

Pulverized chlorate of potash is often used as a household remedy for sore throat, the powder being dissolved in water and the solution used as a gargle. Pulverized sulphur is also used about the household to a considerable extent, and, as it is likely to be kept on the same shelf with the chlorate, there is always danger of the two becoming mixed by spilling, or by the breaking of the package, or otherwise. The consequences of striking or rubbing a mixture of this kind would be serious. Chlorate of potash will also combine with finely pulverized charcoal, though not so readily nor so violently as with sulphur. Very likely it would combine, in the same way, with pulverized sugar, or with common flour.

These dangers are well worth consideration, as they relate to substances that are likely to be found in any household. The hazard is so great that in some countries railroads are not allowed to haul sulphur and chlorate of potash upon the same train.

## THE KEOKUK DAM.

That the Keokuk dam has not materially reduced the rates for power in the territory served by the company's electrical system and that therefore the vast improvement is of little real benefit to the district is the view that is set forth by the St. Louis Star. It charges that the public was not sufficiently safeguarded by the act of congress which gave permission for the building of the dam. The subject is of interest in the tri-city, in view of the fact that some time a similar project for the improvement of the Rock Island rapids may be undertaken. Says the Star:

"His congress has been hounded about the Keokuk dam."

It has.

Have the people of St. Louis been hounded about it?

They have.

The chief argument used to convince in setting the franchise for the dam on a navigable stream was that there would be cheaper power for the people through the electricity generated.

One of the chief hopes held out to the people of St. Louis, when the St. Louis public service commission was at work making a physical valuation of the public utilities properties, as a basis of recommendation to the city assembly for rates, was the much cheaper service it would be possible to give the city when power was received from the Keokuk dam.

Has either promise been kept even to the war, while being broken to the bone?

It has not.

The reason is not far to seek.

Three companies combine to jockey the rates.

That is how both congress and the people of St. Louis are hounded—subsidized by the apparent intricacy of the arrangement, which is not intricate at all if we reduce it to the simple proposition that the same people are dealing with themselves under different names.

The Mississippi River Power company generates the electricity and brings it 120 miles, to within ten miles of St. Louis, and sells it at 4½ cents a kilowatt, approximately, to the Electric company of Missouri, which does nothing in the world but "step down" the high tension current to usable tension, carry it ten miles and sell it to the Union Electric Light and Power company.

The price charged the latter is about 8½ cents under a contract for the company to pay more if coal in St. Louis goes above \$14.2 a ton.

Immediately you ask, what has the price of coal to do with it?

The answer is—nothing, except on the principle of charging all the traf- fic will bear.

Here is where congress is hounded.

If the dam owners made a contract based upon the price of coal, congress might begin asking questions.

It might want to know why a company chartered by it on the theory that it would give the people cheaper power than could be generated by coal, based its rate on the price of coal.

It would be an embarrassing question to answer.

HAVE LITTLE AT STAKE.

Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden have vastly more commercial shipping at stake than belongs to us. The rights of neutral merchant ships in the North sea may be of some theoretical concern to us, but of very little practical moment, as the American Review of Reviews points out. Our trade with Europe is in no way dependent upon ships flying the American flag. When, therefore, the German government warned neutral powers that there might be much danger after February 18 in the English channel and the waters adjacent to the British islands, we were very slightly affected in a practical way. Norway, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden were very much more directly concerned.

The best possible advice to American shipowners would have been, "Keep out of the danger zones till the situation clears up, and be thankful for your mercies!"

For 50 years we have had no merchant shipping, to speak of, entering European waters; and we should be extraordinary fools to be forcing ourselves in at the one moment when sensible people would be glad to keep out. We had great and legitimate interests in Mexico, which we were instructed to abandon in order that our country might not be embroiled. We have no shipping interests in the North sea, or the waters around Great Britain that are of any relative importance; and we have no occasion to become embroiled either with Great Britain or with Germany.

## The World Wide War Trust

XXVI.  
BY CONGRESSMAN CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus.)  
Washington, D. C., March 12.—When Mr. Daniels, for many years editor and publisher of the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer, was sworn in as secretary of the navy, and had time to look about him, he found that the people's money was being wasted by the payment of excessive prices for armor and practically all articles required for the navy. Through-out his two years in the cabinet he has been earnestly endeavoring to rescue the public treasury from the patriots for war, who year in and year out have been helping themselves, seemingly at will, from the public crib.



CLYDE H. TAVENNER

Secretary Daniels has saved the government some \$2,000,000, which is but a drop in the bucket to the amount he could save if he could obtain government manufacture of everything. In his first annual report for the year 1914 Secretary Daniels asked for an appropriation for an armor-plate factory. I quote from that report:

"I desire to recommend the passage at the earliest moment of a sufficient appropriation to begin the construction of a government armor plant to relieve the situation which, in my estimation, is intolerable and at total variance with the principle of economy in spending government money. It is not my intention to encroach here upon the economic reasons that prompt me to make this recommendation, as I have already gone into them at length in a letter to the senate in response to a request for information. It is sufficient to mention here that only three firms in this country can manufacture armor plate, and that these three firms have put in bids for armor plate varying over a few dollars, and in many instances being identical to a cent. Asked for reasons as to the uniformity of these bids, two of the firms replied frankly that as the contract would be divided amongst them anyway, the only effect of competitive bids would be to reduce the profits made by all of the three concerns."

"By manufacturing armor plate in its own plant the government will be able to keep for its own use any improvements in the manufacture or composition of its armor that may be developed. The last word has not been said in armor, and past history shows that great improvements in the manufacture and design of armor plate have been made. The greater part of these improvements were suggested by actual experience, gained by naval officers. Under our present system of obtaining our armor plate from private companies such improvements become the property of all the world and can be obtained by anybody who cares to buy them."

Even now the improvements in armor and the designs worked out by the navy have been embodied in the warship of another nation recently finished by the Bethlehem Steel Co., and put into commission. This is not an argument lightly to be disregarded, in favor of a government armor plant, not has it been overlooked, for instance, by Japan, which has erected its own armor making plant and surrounded it with such secrecy that none of the other nations are able to tell whether or not at this minute the Japanese armor may not be superior to any other in existence. In addition to Japan, the French government, after experimenting with a factory capable of producing only the lighter weights of armor, is enlarging its government plant so as to permit of the production of thick plates, and Russia has had its own armor-plate factory for some time."

"I do not see how it is possible for congress to justify to the people a refusal to erect a government plant, nor how it can answer the charge that it will invariably be brought up—that the same mysterious providence which saved this profitable business to the steel companies three times in the past, even after money for a government plant had actually been appropriated, is not still at work exercising its beneficent protection over these lusty specimens of infant industries, who are even now under government investigation as violators of the anti-trust law."

(To be Continued.)

## POULTRY NOTES

Every farmer should raise over 100 fowls a year for use on his home table. There is nothing better, cheaper or more convenient for the housekeeper than a flock of chickens to draw on for the table supply once or twice a week.

It pays to raise summer chickens. The writer last summer continued his hatchery up until late in August, with the result that he'll have roasting and brooding poultry for sale right along clean up to the present month of March and will even have enough to run into the next month. It was a most profitable experiment, and one that should be followed by all poultrymen. Good, tender chickens of all sizes are always more or less in demand.

The value of bran as a poultry food, is not appreciated as it should be by poultry raisers. It is rich in protein. Not being rich in carbohydrates it is of little value as a fattening food, but as a regulator of system there is nothing better. The dry, starchy bran, free from moldings, is to be preferred to bran that is rich in moldings or low grade flour. In a mash it should be two parts bran to one part of each of the other ingredients, and always by weight, not measurement. Bran placed in small troughs, and kept constantly before the brooder chicks, will act wonderfully well in regulating the system of the chicks so that cases of bowel trouble will be scarce.

**HEALTH TALKS**  
William Brady, M.D.  
More Tricks of the Trade.

If strict honesty were as much a part of the patent medicine and cure-all business as it is a part of the shoe business or the grocery business, the American people would be spared a lot of misery. Because there is no doubt that a lot of imaginary "ever trouble," "kidney trouble" and the like is caused by the intentionally misleading description of symptoms in patent medicine circulars and advertisements.

One old trick is this. The "kidney cure" fellow suggests that if any sediment appears in a bottle of urine which has stood for some hours you've got kidney trouble and you should take Dr. Killen's Natural Herbs while there is yet time. As a matter of fact any normal urine will show more or less sediment on standing for some time.

Manufactured "Kidney Trouble." Another kidney pill contains a dye, methylene blue, which stains the urine greenish or blue. This gives the shark a chance to make you imagine the blue stain signifies "poisonous matter" the worthless pills are driving out of your poor, run down, well-tried system. A famous fake consists of an appliance you wear on your feet, along with some other pills containing methylene blue—to help the "drawing out of poisons," you understand. Methylene blue has its value for diagnostic tests, but as a remedy thus abused it should be sufficient evidence to put the crooks who sell it in limbo.

The scores of alleged kidney cures, stomach bitters, catarrh cures and tonics which are nothing else than disguised alcoholic beverages—something like three hundred of them have already been declared salable only by one holding a license from the commissioner of Internal Revenue—well, enough of that trick. Too many purchasers of such "medicine" like the bracers.

The untrustworthiness of patent medicine advertising is being more and more recognized by legitimate business men, and in time we hope, there will come a way to control this abuse of public confidence and common decency.

Questions and Answers.  
Young, Yet Skeptical: I am 15 years old. I have blackheads and flesh worms about the nose and chin which at times develop into red and watery pimples, accompanied by chronic oily condition of the skin. Am skeptical of a cure. Will you advise me? (Jane.)

Reply.  
It isn't right to become a skeptic unless you are growing old—it's a sign of approaching senility, the skeptic is. A stamped addressed envelope will bring you some suggestions you have not yet tried.

Palpitation, a Symptom: Will you tell me what will cure palpitation of the heart?

Reply.  
First tell us whether your palpitation is a symptom of indigestion, anemia, high blood pressure, exophthalmic goitre, tobaccoism, nervous disease or heart trouble. This is an evasive way of saying: Go and be examined.

Writer's Cramp: I always have cramp when I write—that is why I am using the typewriter. Am a church organist. It doesn't affect my playing. No pain. But as soon as I take up my pen the fingers grasp it in a death grip and I seem powerless to guide it. A business college professor tells me relief can be had by learning the shoulder movement in penmanship. What is your opinion?

Reply.  
We corroborate the professor's statement. Do it. Reading your neat, brief letter we are almost constrained to wish all our correspondents might suffer with your ailment.

## CHORDS AND DISCORDS

MISS Spooner will be a Chicago spring bride.

SIGN in Moline: For Sale—Fresh cow. If this is so she ought to be chastised.

"ILLINOIS house to labor hard"—headline. It is earnestly to be hoped that our statesmen, in their desire to satisfactorily serve their constituents, will not make the error of violating the eight-hour work day law.

GREAT Britain and Ireland, we are informed, are 30,000,000 rabbits annually. That ought to keep the natives on the jump.

CHARLES Newman is still confined in his home on account of la-grippe, which he has entertained for the past two weeks.—Marcellus, Mich. News.

AMERICAN liquor interests are circulating the country in an effort to show that prohibition is proving a failure in Russia. Inasmuch as the czar's government is losing \$1,000,000 a day in vodka revenue, and seems to be content to continue the operation, there is no reason why we should worry this far away from the scene.

"CARRANZA bows to Spain."—Headline. We'll wager when he did he had at least one hand at his hip.

AS further proof that the European fight is between the royal families, four Germans, held prisoners, aboard an English transport, were married yesterday in London to their English sweethearts.

GERMANY is reported to be building submarines at the rate of one a day. That is faster than the enemy can sink them.

CHICAGOAN dropped dead while gazing at posters in front of a theatre. Some of them are just killing.

ILLINOIS woman is suing for divorce, and in her declaration alleges that her husband offered her \$500 to permit him to get loose from her. Friend husband's mistake was in putting such a low value upon friend wife. Acceptance of his terms would likely injure her future prospects.

CINCINNATI, always original, has now come to bat with the three-cent movie theatre. Hef you ever bin in Cincinnati?

"I AM building up my own business," says a Peoria undertaker in one of his newspaper advertisements. This ought to call for an investigation by the authorities.

GEORGE Booth was hurt quite badly last week while getting up wood. A large log rolled over him.—Erie Independent. Sort of a log rolling.

AGAPITO O. GAZ and Patrouille M. Tans took part in an entertainment at Iowa City recently. Sound like tango dancers.

Tip to Baseball Managers. Rubbing with unsalted butter, followed by bleaching in the sun, will cleanse ivory.—Detroit News.

SLEEPLESSNESS.  
Did you ever lie awake at night? The very mischief is in it! Did you ever toss and roll around while chasing after sleep? Did you ever know the vague affrights of each succeeding minute? With Fate in every crackling sleep?—while you are counting sheep? Perchance 'tis coffee bothers you; or, maybe, conscience troubles. Or, maybe, 'twas the extra grape you ate at midnight lunch. A business outlook rather blue; enthusiasm's bubbles; The stinger of a careless Jape; a thought that has a punch.

Well, when it happens do not let the fact annoy, oppress you. For fretfulness, one's nature sours, while moments slowly creep. The time you wish to sleep forget! That plan is best! Why, bless you.

Just think of them as waking hours, and do not try to sleep! Just let some small conjecture grow and idly dream about it. To memory's auto give the spark and take a mental run. You'll be asleep before you know! That's why—You needn't doubt it!

I'm lying dreaming in the dark and making verse—for fun!—Grif Alexander in Pittsburgh Dispatch.

IN the face of the fact that our ministers are seeking the cooperation of Rev. Billy Sunday to fill their empty stables strikes one as an unusual statement by the evangelist: "It's a good thing I'm not God for 15 minutes. If I were I would fill your papers with obituaries and fill freight cars with the dead."

M. PROTOPADAKIS is the new minister of finance in Greece. You might try him on your typewriter.

OLD Subscriber offers further proof that there is nothing in a name by calling attention to the fact that one Crook served nearly a half century as disbursing officer at the White house.

WHEN a miser dies leaving \$100,000 it does not take long to locate his loving relatives, observes the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"CAN Peoria be saved?" one of the papers there asks. After reading the campaign charges in the Peoria press one doubts it.

J. M. C.

## The Daily Story

The Claimant—By Eunice Blake.

On the estate of Lucien Marivaud, in France, lived a poor man named Sou-bise and his wife, Marie, the couple having a little son, Francois. M. Marivaud had extensive vineyards, from the product of which he manufactured wine. Sou-bise had charge of the grape growing, and Marivaud not only valued his services highly, but was very fond of him. Sou-bise's wife died, and he soon followed her, leaving little Francois without a home.

M. Marivaud had a son, Victor, about Francois' age. When the latter was left an orphan he was taken to the chateau and became a playmate of Victor. There was a brother of Victor, Louis, much younger than either of these two boys.

When Victor was eighteen he entered the military school and became an army officer. Upon graduating he was ordered to join his regiment in Tonkin. Francois was anxious to see service and, enlisting in the same regiment, went out with Victor, who agreed to interest himself in his promotion that he might become an officer.

A year later after a fight Lieutenant Marivaud was reported missing. This meant that he had fallen into the hands of the Chinese, in which case it was quite likely that he had been murdered. When nothing was heard from him for several years he was given up by his family, and when his brother, Louis, came of age he inherited the family patrimony, his father having died without a will. M. Marivaud had purposely omitted to make one because he never ceased to hope that his son would one day turn out to be among the living.

Ten years after the departure of Victor Marivaud, when there was no member of the family living, Louis, who had for some time possessed and managed the wine business, became engaged to Hortense Villaret, the daughter of a neighbor. Mlle. Villaret belonged to an aristocratic family, but the estate had been confiscated during one of the many changes in the sovereignty of France, and she was very poor. She and Louis were much in love with each other, and her father favored the match because Louis was wealthy and could enable Hortense to return to the style of living to which the family had formerly been accustomed.

All went happily for the lovers till a few weeks before the day set for the wedding. Then one day a man appeared at the chateau claiming to be Victor Marivaud. Louis was but twelve years old when his brother left home, and, granting that this man was Victor, he would not have remembered him. There was no other person at hand who had been familiar with Victor to identify him.

## Sidelights on the European War

Vienna.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—In the official reports issued by the city of Vienna as to conditions here during war time it is pointed out today that Germany and Austria-Hungary through the war have suffered economically no more than the allies and the neutral powers. As proof thereof the fact is given that savings bank deposits in 1914 decreased only 27,000,000 crowns and that the money market continues extraordinarily easy. The supply of foodstuffs during January in general was sufficient, although various articles of necessity showed an increase in price. Only the flour situation has not improved owing to the existing high prices for wheat and flour in Vienna and other communities. The city of Vienna therefore has secured a large quantity of corn for the needs of the Viennese population, and in order to have this unpopular article of food meet more easily with a favorable reception by the population, recipes for the use of corn flour are printed on the reverse of the street car tickets and in such other manner as seem appropriate.

Hamburg.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The Hamburger Housewives' league is preparing to open a bureau for housewives and cooks, at which the latter may be given instruction and advice regarding the value of war food supplies and the nutritional qualities of various products. War cook books and pamphlets will be distributed without cost if necessary. The bureau also will maintain an employment agency for the benefit of housewives who, new that their husbands are at war, must seek employment.

Sydney.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Manager Romavventura Cerretti, who for nine years occupied an important office in connection with the Apostolic delegation to Washington, has arrived in Sydney to assume the post of apostolic delegate of the Roman Catholic church to Australasia. His selection was made by the late Pope Pius X., who established the delegation in order to place Australia on a level with other countries in this respect.

Managua.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The Toyo Kisen Kaisha, one of the leading Japanese steamship lines, has arranged to make Balboa a port of call on its sailings from Japan to the ports along the west coast of South America. It is not contemplated that the steamers will visit the ports on the east coast and thus pass through the Panama canal. This probably will be done after the west coast trade has become firmly established. The ships will sail from Yokohama and touch at Hong Kong, Honolulu and Californian points, thence down the western coast to the Central American ports, stopping at Balboa, from where they will depart for South America.

Panama.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The five large paintings depicting scenes along the canal during the construction period, for which the Panama canal government paid \$25,000, have just been placed in the rotunda of the new administration building on the side of the Ancon hill at Balboa Heights. The work was done by a number of experts under the direct supervision of the artist, William B. Van Ingen of New York.

Berlin.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The German military governor of Lodz has posted the

But the claimant was able to tell of many incidents that had happened on the estate, which went far to prove that he was what he claimed to be. He explained his long absence in this way: During the fight in which he was reported missing he was knocked on the head by the butt of a musket in the hands of a Chinaman and stunned. When he came to himself he remembered nothing of the past, not even his name. The dead were lying about him, the wounded had been removed. He arose and walked till he came to a city, where he eventually entered the service of a French merchant. After passing through various vicissitudes he was taken suddenly ill and was removed to a hospital. After having been delirious on returning to his former condition he had exclaimed, "You rascally Chinaman, take that for yours!" But seeing a nurse before him instead of a Chinaman he appeared much surprised. He had returned to a normal state, remembering that he was Victor Marivaud.

His appearance was a terrible blow to the lovers, for, according to the French law of inheritance, Victor Marivaud was the owner of the estate, including the wine business. He told Louis so many things that had occurred during the latter's childhood that Louis became convinced that the stranger was his brother. Nevertheless it was not to be expected that he would be pleased to see a brother of whom he had no remembrance and who would dispossess him of his property. But the severest blow was that M. Villaret immediately withdrew his consent to his daughter's marriage unless it could be proved that the claimant was an impostor.

There was an old blind woman living on the place, who, on hearing of the claimant, desired that he be brought to her. She asked him a few questions, which seemed to trouble him, though he answered them correctly. Then the old woman directed that he be unclothed to the waist. This was done, and her hand was guided to his chest. She slid her hand around to his side under his right arm, and it rested on a small lump the size of a pea.

"This is Francois Sou-bise," she said. "I lived with his mother when he was a little boy and often dressed and undressed him. I know him by his lump."

That ended the pretense. Louis Marivaud after this attempt to impose on him went to Tonkin and made a search for his brother, Victor. But, although he spent much time on the matter, he failed to obtain any information whatever. Victor never returned.

maximum prices that are allowed to be charged there for the necessities of life. The following specimens indicate that prices are not unduly high, so far as mere prices go. Wheat, 15 cents a pound; mutton, 11½; wheat flour, 8½; rye flour, 5½ and rye flour, 2½. The meat prices are not half so high as at Berlin, but no mention is made of how much provisions can be bought by the people of Lodz at the prices mentioned.

Owing to a general strike of printers in Prague, Bohemia, the leading newspaper of that city was recently produced by photography from type written copy.

Mar. 16 in American History.

1776—Washington's Continental troops continued work on the fortifications of Nook's Hill, Boston. In the face of heavy cannonading by British guns.

1865—Sherman's advance column defeated Hardee's Confederates at Aversboro, N. C.; loss about 600 on each side.

1880—Tidal wave disaster in the harbor of Apia, Samoa, in which the United States warships Trenton and Vandelin were sunk and the Nipic driven on shore; 52 American lives lost.

1912—The bulk of the wrecked battleship Maine was sunk off the coast of Cuba, with imposing ceremonies.